

## Message Text

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21

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /107 W  
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O 230943Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1083

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, MU

SUBJECT: OMANI POSITION ON STRAITS ISSUE

REF: STATE 90554; GENEVA 2704

1. I DISCUSSED LOS STRAITS ISSUE IN SOME DETAIL WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, QAIS ZAWAWI, ON APRIL 23, LEAVING WITH HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING ESSENTIAL POINTS MADE IN GENEVA REFTEL. ZAWAWI REITERANWED OMANI CONCERNS--I.E. SELECTIVE DETERMINATION OF "INNOCENCE" ESSENTIALLY AIMED AT EXCLUDING SOVIETS, AND PROBLEM OF POLLUTION POTENTIAL. HE SEEMED TO APPRECIATE ARGUMENTATION THAT COASTAL STATE DETERMINATION OF "INNOCENCE" WOULD GIVE RISE TO REAL PROBLEMS SINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, "FRIENDLY" FLAGS PASSING THROUGH HORMUZ MIGHT BE REGARDED AS "UNFRIENDLY" WHEN THEY WANTED TO TRANSIT BAB AL MANDEB. LIKewise, HE GRASPED REASONING ON WHY USG OPPOSED TO REGIME WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SURFACE TRANSIT OF SUBMARINE

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VESSLES.

2. USING MAP TO EMPHASIZE HIS POINTS, ZAWAWI THEN GRAPPLED WITH CONCEIVABLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND INTERIOR WATERS IN HORMUZ AREA. DEEPEST AND MOST COMMONLY-USED PASSAGE LIES WELL WITHIN OMANI WATERS AND ACTUALLY PASSES BETWEEN MAINLAND AND QUOIN ISLAND WHICH IS POINT OF OMANI TERRITORY USED IN DELIMITING WATERS BETWEEN OMAN AND IRAN.

3. DESPITE THESE PROBLEMS, ZAWAWI WAS RECEPTIVE TO DEMARCHE AND STATED THAT OMANGOV MIGHT BE WILLING TO DROP ITS POSITION ON INNOCENT PASSAGE, PROVIDING THAT LOS CONVENTION SPECIFICALLY WOULD INCLUDE ARTICLES EXPLICITLY OUTLINING ACTIVITIES BARRED DURING TRANSIT (WAR EXERCISES, ETC.) AND ENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS FOR INDEMNITY IN CASE OF POLLUTION.

4. I ASSURED HIM THAT USG INTENT WAS THAT SUCH PROVISOS BE A PART OF FINAL CONVENTION AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE HIM TEXTS OF PROPOSALS WE SUPPORT IN THIS REGARD. I AM SENDING HIM A COPY OF U.S. DRAFT ARTICLES ON PROTECTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT (AND ACCOMPANYING JULY 18, 1973 REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR MOORE) AND STATEMENT OF U.S. VIEWS ON STRAITS (FORWARDED UNDER COVER OF DEPT'S A-1666 OF FEB. 28, 1974). REQUEST DEPT OR GENEVA CABLE TEXTS OF ANY OTHER PERTINENT ARTICLES, ALONG WITH SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS ON RESTRICTION OF ACTIVITIES DURING FREE TRANSIT.

5. ZAWAWI INVITED FURTHER DISCUSSION ON TOPIC WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, SO WOULD APPRECIATE QUICK RESPONSE.  
WOLLE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 23 APR 1975  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, MU, (ZAWAWI, QAIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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